6/16/88 S6845-1

ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA ALTOONA MSA BEAVER COUNTY PMSA ERIE MSA HARRISBURG-LEBANON-CARLISLE MSA JOHNSTOWN MSA LANCASTER MSA PHILADELPHIA PMSA PITTSBURGH PMSA READING MSA SCRANTON WILKES-BARRE MSA SHARON MSA STATE COLLEGE MSA WILLIAMSPORT MSA YORK MSA HUNTINGDON LMA INDIANA

YORK MSA
WILLIAMSPORT MSA
STATE COLLEGE MSA
SHARON MSA
SCRANTON -
WILKES-BARRE MSA
READING MSA
PITTSBURGH PMSA
PHILADELPHIA PMSA
LANCASTER MSA
JOHNSTOWN MSA
HARRISBURG
LEBANON CARLISLE
MSA ERIE MSA
BEAVER COUNTY
PMSA ALTOONA MSA
ALLENTOWN
BETHLEHEM MSA
BEDFORD LMA
BRADFORD LMA
BUTLER LMA
CHAMBERSBURG

PENNSYLVANIA'S

LABOR FORCE

.... A Monthly Statistical Analysis

Highlights

- At 4.8 percent, the April unemployment rate reached the lowest level since May, 1974.
- Unemployment rates within Pennsylvania's counties varied between 2.8 and 13.0 percent in March.
- Lancaster maintains lowest rate of unemployment for the fifteen major metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) in Pennsylvania.
- Nonmanufacturing employment sets new high in April of 3.97 million.
- Average weekly hours remain stable in March. Hourly earnings drop off slightly.
- Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund balance records the highest balance since February, 1975.

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Unemployment Compensation 7

APRIL 1988 DATA **ISSUED: MAY 1988**

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Department of Labor and Industry Office of Employment Security

Research and Statistics Division

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

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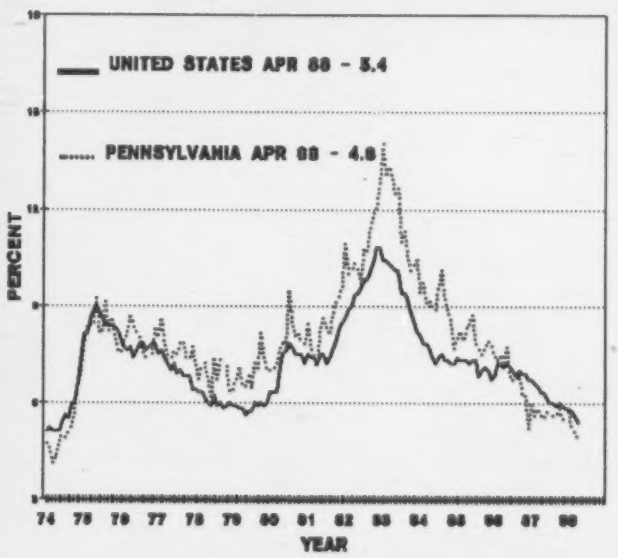
ADDRESS INQUIRIES TO:
RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIVISION
LABOR AND INDUSTRY BUILDING
SEVENTH AND FORSTER STREETS
HARRISBURG, PA 17121
PHONE: (717) 787-6466

CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

PENNSYLVANIA NEARS FULL EMPLOYMENT

Pennsylvania's economic health brightened considerably in April as measured by labor force statistics. After a brief pause in March, resident employment and unemployment resumed their course of strong improvement. With statewide employment headed back toward all-time highs, the April jobless rate fell to its lowest level in fourteen years.

Labor force data show April seasonally adjusted joblessness at 276,000, down 17,000 since March. This represents the third time during the current



economic recovery that fewer than 300,000 workers were unemployed.

TABLE 2
TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA
(All persons in thousands)

RESIDENT DATA	APR 1988	MAR 1988	APR 1987	NET CHANGE FROM MAR 1988	NET CHANGE FROM APR 1987
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,753	5,728	5,534	25	189
Employment	5,477	5,435	5,254	42	223
Unemployment	276	293	310	-17	-34
Rate of Unemployment (%)	4.8	5.1	5.6	-0.3	-0.8
UNADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,656	5,617	5,464	39	192
Employment	5,396	5,304	5,169	92	227
Unemployment	260	314	295	-54	-35
Rate of Unemployment (%)	4.6	5.6	5.4	-1.0	-0.8

Prior to December 1986, when 288,000 were unemployed, the 300,000 barrier had not been broken since October 1974. The April drop in joblessness resulted in a 0.3 percentage point decline in the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment. At 4.8 percent, the April rate reached the lowest level since May 1974 when 4.8 percent was last achieved.

The April rate is even more significant in that it fell below the critical 5.0 percent level. The 5.0 percent level for a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is currently considered by many economists to represent full employment. Full employment is a labor market condition where most jobless workers can find work in a reasonable length of time. Since there are always layoffs and entrants to the labor force who are unable to find jobs immediately, it becomes increasingly difficult to lower the rate below five percent.

UNEMPLOYMENT ..... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

UNEMPLOYMENT VARIES IN PENNSYLVANIA'S COUNTIES

Unemployment within Pennsylvania's counties in March varied between 2.8 percent and 13.0 percent. Chester County earned the number one spot with Cumberland County and Montgomery County tied for second at 3.2 percent. Additional counties with rates below 4.0 percent are: Lancaster, Bucks and Delaware. The map of Pennsylvania's counties poignantly depicts the divergence in rates within the state. All county unemployment rates below 4.9 percent are located in eastern Pennsylvania. Conversely, the highest rates of unemployment are predominantly in the southwestern-most part of the Commonwealth. Furthermore, with the exception of five counties, all counties in western Pennsylvania have rates of 7.0 percent or higher. During March, the rate of unemployment in the state was 5.6 percent.

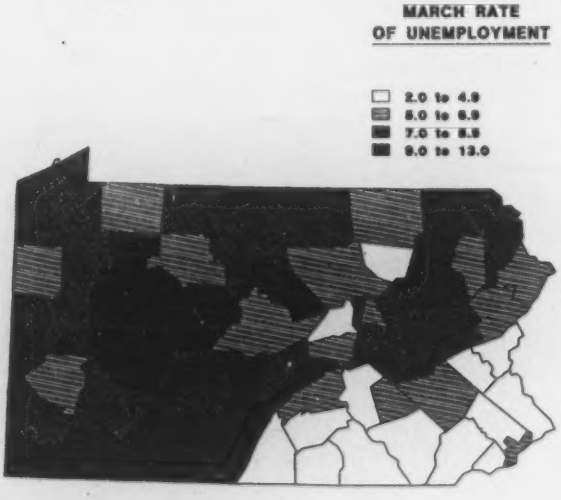


TABLE 2
PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES RANKED BY RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

MARCH 1988

COUNTY	RANK	RATE	VOLUME
Chester	1	2.8	5.1
Cumberland	2	3.2	3.3
Montgomery	3	3.2	12.1
Lancaster	4	3.4	7.1
Delaware	5	3.5	10.1
Bucks	6	3.6	10.4
Franklin	7	4.3	2.3
York	8	4.3	7.5
Northampton	9	4.5	4.9
Adams	10	4.5	1.7
Dauphin	11	4.6	5.9
Lehigh	12	4.7	6.6
Union	13	4.8	0.8
Sullivan	14	4.9	0.1
Berks	15	5.0	8.5
Montour	16	5.0	0.4
Lebanon	17	5.1	3.1
Monroe	18	5.2	2.2
Perry	19	5.3	1.0
Centre	20	5.4	3.3
Allegheny	21	5.6	34.8
Pike	22	5.6	0.5
Philadelphia	23	5.7	41.2
Snyder	24	5.8	1.0
Warren	25	5.9	1.2
Bradford	26	6.0	1.7
Elk	27	6.1	1.0
Lycoming	28	6.1	3.6
Mercer	29	6.1	3.0
Lackawanna	30	6.4	6.7
Erie	31	7.1	9.0
Luzerne	32	7.1	11.0
Schuylkill	33	7.2	5.0
Susquehanna	34	7.3	1.3
McKean	35	7.3	1.5
Tioga	36	7.3	1.3
Columbia	37	7.3	2.2
Butler	38	7.5	5.1
Wayne	39	7.5	1.3
Blair	40	7.5	4.4
Carbon	41	7.6	1.8
Wyoming	42	7.6	1.0
Venango	43	7.7	1.9
Northumberland	44	7.7	3.8
Westmoreland	45	7.7	12.8
Cameron	46	7.7	0.2
Potter	47	7.9	0.8
Lawrence	48	7.9	3.4
Washington	49	8.0	7.2
Cambria	50	8.1	4.9
Crawford	51	8.5	3.1
Mifflin	52	8.8	1.8
Fulton	53	9.0	0.5
Bedford	54	9.4	1.9
Clearfield	55	9.7	3.3
Jefferson	56	9.7	1.9
Somerset	57	9.9	3.1
Juniata	58	10.0	0.9
Clinton	59	10.1	1.6
Beaver	60	10.2	6.3
Indiana	61	10.3	3.8
Armstrong	62	10.6	2.9
Fayette	63	10.8	6.3
Huntingdon	64	11.1	5.0
Greene	65	11.8	1.5
Clarion	66	12.7	2.2
Forest	67	13.0	0.2

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR MARKET AREAS

TABLE 3

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME AND RATE BY MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA IN PENNSYLVANIA (Seasonally Adjusted, Number in Thousands)

	MAR. 1988 P/		FEB. 1988		MAR. 1987	
	UNEMP. NUMBER	UNEMP. RATE%	UNEMP. NUMBER	UNEMP. RATE%	UNEMP. NUMBER	UNEMP. RATE%
UNITED STATES	6,801.0	5.6	6,938.0	5.7	7,791.0	6.5
PENNSYLVANIA	293.0	5.1	300.0	5.2	321.0	5.8
LABOR MARKET AREA						
ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA	14.6	4.6	15.1	4.7	15.9	5.1
ALTOONA MSA	3.9	6.5	4.1	6.8	4.2	7.2
BEAVER COUNTY MSA	6.1	9.7	5.9	9.4	6.1	9.8
ERIE MSA	8.3	6.5	8.5	6.6	9.5	7.6
HARRISBURG-LEB.-CARLISLE MSA	12.3	3.9	12.5	3.9	12.3	4.0
JOHNSTOWN MSA	6.9	7.3	7.1	7.5	7.7	8.3
LANCASTER MSA	7.1	3.3	7.4	3.4	7.7	3.7
PHILADELPHIA PMSA	101.6	4.2	101.4	4.2	106.2	4.5
PITTSBURGH PMSA	57.2	6.0	59.7	6.2	65.3	6.9
READING MSA	7.7	4.4	7.6	4.4	8.4	5.0
SCRANTON--WILKES-BARRE MSA	21.8	6.2	22.1	6.2	25.2	7.3
SHARON MSA	2.6	5.2	2.4	4.8	3.6	7.6
STATE COLLEGE MSA	3.1	5.1	3.0	4.9	3.0	5.1
WILLIAMSPORT MSA	3.0	5.0	3.4	5.6	3.1	5.6
YORK MSA	9.0	4.2	9.1	4.2	9.8	4.8

P/ DATA ARE PRELIMINARY.

LANCASTER MAINTAINS TOP RANKING

The March seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in the Commonwealth's fifteen major labor market areas ranged from 3.3 percent in Lancaster MSA to 9.7 percent in Beaver County PMSA. The Philadelphia PMSA, which includes five counties in Pennsylvania and three in New Jersey, had a jobless rate of 4.2 percent with the largest volume of unemployed at 101,600. Pittsburgh PMSA had the second largest volume of unemployed at 57,200 and an unemployment rate of 6.0 percent.

Sharon MSA in northwestern Pennsylvania had the most significant drop from last year in the rate of unemployed. The March 1988 jobless rate of 5.2 percent was a decline of 2.4 percentage points from the 7.6 percent rate recorded one year ago. Several MSA's had little or no change over the year. State College MSA remained even, while Beaver County PMSA and Harrisburg - Lebanon - Carlisle MSA declined only 0.1 percentage point over the year. At a national level, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.9 percentage points March to March. A comparative figure for the state indicates a drop of 0.7 percentage point from 5.8 percent to 5.1 percent.

PENNSYLVANIA'S JOBS

TABLE 4
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(Not Seasonally Adjusted, Number in Thousands)

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	APR 1988 AP/	MAR 1988 P/	FEB 1988	MAR 1987	NET CHANGE TO MAR 1988 FROM FEB 1988	NET CHANGE TO MAR 1988 FROM MAR 1987
NONAG WAGE AND SALARY	5,051.2	4,948.4	4,913.9	4,816.5	34.5	131.9
--MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	1,047.7	1,045.0	1,044.7	1,030.9	0.3	14.1
DURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	599.4	596.0	594.8	582.5	1.2	13.5
LUMBERAND WOOD PRODUCT		29.6	29.6	27.7	0.0	1.9
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES		21.7	21.9	21.2	-0.2	0.5
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS		46.9	46.2	45.8	0.7	1.1
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES		90.7	90.1	85.5	0.6	5.2
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS		92.0	92.7	89.7	-0.7	2.3
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL		107.1	106.8	101.7	0.3	5.4
ELECTRIC & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		91.8	92.0	94.6	-0.2	-2.8
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT		61.1	60.6	61.3	0.5	-0.2
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PRODUCTS		34.2	34.3	34.4	-0.1	-0.2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES		20.9	20.6	20.6	0.3	0.3
NONDURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	448.3	449.0	449.9	448.4	-0.9	0.6
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS		90.1	90.9	89.3	-0.8	0.8
TOBACCO MANUFACTURES		1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	0.1
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS		31.1	31.0	30.7	0.1	0.4
APPAREL AND OTHER TEXTILE PRODS.		82.7	82.9	89.4	-0.2	-6.7
PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		40.6	40.7	40.8	-0.1	-0.2
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING		81.3	81.4	80.0	-0.1	1.3
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		60.5	60.1	57.8	0.4	2.7
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS		9.5	9.6	10.1	-0.1	-0.6
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS		41.6	41.7	39.3	-0.1	2.3
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS		10.3	10.3	9.8	0.0	0.5
--NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	3,965.2	3,901.2	3,866.5	3,784.6	34.7	116.6
MINING	29.6	29.5	29.1	30.5	0.4	-1.0
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	227..5	207.3	197.5	196.1	9.8	11.2
TRANSPORTATION	247.8	140.5	138.8	139.3	1.7	1.2
PUBLIC UTILITIES		105.2	104.8	103.2	0.4	2.0
COMMUNICATIONS		49.9	49.6	49.3	0.3	0.6
ELECTRIC, GAS AND SANITARY		55.3	55.2	53.9	0.1	1.4
WHOLESALE TRADE	268.6	265.8	264.9	258.9	0.9	6.9
RETAIL TRADE	862.7	846.9	845.2	829.5	1.7	17.4
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES		121.4	121.2	118.8	0.2	2.6
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	294.7	292.5	290.6	287.3	1.9	5.2
BANKING		87.4	87.3	88.9	0.1	-1.5
INSURANCE CARRIERS		87.3	86.8	83.7	0.5	3.6
SERVICES AND MISCELLANEOUS	1,328.4	1,309.3	1,297.3	1,245.8	12.0	63.5
BUSINESS SERVICES		227.1	225.2	209.8	1.9	17.3
HEALTH SERVICES		426.6	425.1	411.0	1.5	15.6
--HOSPITALS		235.1	234.7	228.0	0.4	7.1
LEGAL SERVICES		37.4	37.4	34.6	0.0	2.8
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES		60.2	157.8	152.0	2.4	8.2
SOCIAL SERVICES		84.7	83.9	82.5	0.8	2.2
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES		63.1	62.8	57.6	0.3	5.5
GOVERNMENT	705.9	704.2	698.3	694.0	5.9	10.2
FEDERAL		143.4	142.8	139.4	0.6	4.0
STATE		153.2	152.1	152.2	1.1	1.0
LOCAL		407.6	403.4	402.4	4.2	5.2
--PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	2.3	2.2	2.7	1.0	-0.5	1.2

AP/= Advanced preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/= Preliminary data.

ADVANCED PRELIMINARY DATA STRONG IN APRIL

Pennsylvania's total nonagricultural establishment employment, according to advanced preliminary figures was very strong in April. Moving to 5,015,200, employment was up 66,800 and 120,100 over the month ago and year ago levels, respectively. Seasonal patterns for all nonagricultural employment in the spring typically display expanded growth; however, April's advances slightly exceeded that which was expected.

Nonmanufacturing employment for April reached an all-time high , surpassing the previous high set last December. The current level of 3,965,200 exceeds the previous record by 400. Over the month nonmanufacturing employment increased by 64,000. The most significant contributions in employment were: contract construction (+20,200), services and miscellaneous (+19,100), and retail trade (+15,800).

MANUFACTURING SHOWS OVER THE YEAR GROWTH

Buoyed by another month of solid gains within the nonmanufacturing division, total jobs throughout the Commonwealth rose by 34,500 to a preliminary March count of 4,948,400. While not the highest month on record, March's job total ranks fifth best, revealing 131,900 more jobs than were filled one year ago.

While manufacturing jobs inched upward by 300 in March, the overall movement was less than the normal springtime boost, and marks the second consecutive month that manufacturing's performance has been below expectations. Typically, the February-March manufacturing job increase is on the order of 4,300. Durable goods industries collectively gained 1,200 jobs since February, mostly centered in the stone, clay and glass; primary metals; and transportation equipment industry lines. Nondurables, at 449,000 in March, were off 900 jobs, primarily the result of a near-equal job downturn in food and kindred products. Despite the relatively poor March numbers, both durables and nondurables continued to compare quite favorably with their year-ago counts as twelve-month job gains of 13,500 and 600, respectively, are shown.

NONMANUFACTURING GAINS ONE-HALF MILLION JOBS SINCE 1983

Nonmanufacturing payroll employment moved strongly upward by 34,700 in March, accounting for virtually all of the total jobs gained throughout Pennsylvania. At the most recent March level of 3,901,200, nonmanufacturing jobs totaled 116,600 more than during March, 1987, and 546,100 more than were tallied during March, 1983.

Nonmanufacturing expansion was broadbased. In fact, March job gains were forthcoming in every major industry line. In moving to yet another all-time high, jobs in the service industry soared by 12,000 in March to a level of 1,309,300. Favorable spring weather caused contract construction to boost payrolls by 9,800 since February, while government gained 5,900, most in the local government education line.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

TABLE 5
PENNSYLVANIA HOURS AND EARNINGS
OF MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

INDUSTRY TITLE	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	MAR. 1988 P/	FEB. 1988	MAR. 1987	MAR. 1988 P/	FEB. 1988	MAR. 1987	MAR. 1988 P/	FEB. 1988	MAR. 1987
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	413.30	414.12	398.52	40.8	40.8	40.5	10.13	10.15	9.84
DURABLE GOODS	453.11	453.53	439.07	41.8	41.8	41.5	10.84	10.85	10.58
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS	342.68	335.94	349.88	39.8	39.2	42.0	8.61	8.57	8.33
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	353.51	342.81	348.25	39.9	39.0	40.4	8.86	8.79	8.62
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODS.	442.68	440.37	430.08	42.2	42.1	42.0	10.49	10.46	10.24
PRIMARY METALS	536.78	548.64	515.01	42.5	43.2	41.6	12.63	12.70	12.38
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	436.27	442.86	436.27	41.9	42.3	41.9	10.46	10.47	10.46
NONELECTRICAL MACHINERY	479.70	481.93	449.53	43.1	43.3	41.7	11.13	11.13	10.78
ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONIC MACH.	413.47	416.75	400.95	41.1	41.1	40.5	10.06	10.14	9.90
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	526.54	507.98	477.53	42.8	41.4	40.4	12.36	12.27	11.82
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PROD.	422.06	418.61	429.00	41.5	41.0	42.1	10.17	10.21	10.19
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES	367.26	364.43	409.17	38.7	38.2	42.8	9.49	9.54	9.56
NONDURABLE GOODS	361.82	362.09	350.27	39.5	39.4	39.4	9.16	9.19	8.89
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	393.22	397.56	379.93	39.8	40.2	39.7	9.88	9.89	9.57
TOBACCO PRODUCTS	238.73	233.31	254.40	39.2	38.5	41.5	6.09	6.06	6.13
TEXTILE PRODUCTS	278.97	273.22	276.91	38.8	38.0	39.9	7.19	7.19	6.94
APPAREL AND RELATED PRODUCTS	222.84	218.51	207.68	36.0	35.3	35.2	6.19	6.19	5.90
PAPER PRODUCTS	457.49	464.56	464.90	43.2	43.5	43.9	10.59	10.68	10.59
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	437.09	433.20	421.08	40.1	40.0	39.8	10.90	10.83	10.58
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	506.99	513.52	502.98	41.9	42.3	43.1	12.10	12.14	11.67
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS	579.63	606.18	569.80	41.7	42.9	41.5	13.90	14.13	13.73
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS	375.23	376.97	375.48	41.8	41.7	42.0	9.02	9.04	8.94
LEATHER PRODUCTS	225.29	222.74	220.80	37.3	37.0	36.8	6.04	6.02	6.00
NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES									
MINING									
—ANTHRACITE COAL	435.34	395.74	398.86	36.4	33.2	34.8	11.96	11.92	11.47
—BITUMINOUS COAL & LIGNITE	609.15	632.31	634.95	39.3	40.3	41.5	15.50	15.69	15.30
—NONMETALLIC MINERALS	443.52	402.79	445.41	44.0	40.4	44.9	10.08	9.97	9.92
PUBLIC UTILITIES									
—COMMUNICATIONS	517.72	526.91	525.48	39.4	39.5	39.9	13.14	13.39	13.17
—ELECTRIC, GAS AND SANITARY	639.58	651.65	640.22	42.3	42.9	43.2	15.12	15.19	14.82
——ELECTRIC SERVICES	627.10	632.39	616.32	42.4	42.7	42.8	14.79	14.81	14.40
——GAS PRODUCTION & DIST.	540.47	553.43	530.37	41.1	41.8	41.5	13.15	13.24	12.78
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES	173.81	165.97	175.56	27.0	26.9	28.5	6.43	6.17	6.16

P/ = Preliminary data.

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS REMAIN STABLE IN MARCH

Average hourly earnings for Pennsylvania's production workers declined two cents, moving from $10.15 per hour in February to $10.13 per hour in March. Average hourly earnings, which broke into double digits in September 1987, were twenty-nine cents per hour higher this than last. Hourly earnings among durable goods producers declined over the month by one cent to $10.84. Nondurable goods producers saw earnings drop three cents per hour to $9.16. Production workers within the fabricated metals industry were earning $10.47 per hour, dead even with last March's hourly rate.

Weekly hours of production workers remained steady between February and March. Weekly hours were at 40.8 in March, three-tenths of an hour more than one year ago. Durable goods manufacturers reported an average work week of 41.8 hours while nondurable manufacturers recorded 39.5 hours.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION REGULAR PROGRAM
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	MAR 1988	FEB. 1988	MAR. 1987	NET CHANGE FROM FEB. 88	NET CHANGE FROM MAR. .87
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	77,033	88,638	81,084	-11,605	-4,051
Weeks Claimed					
--Total	700,001	711,379	774,903	-11,378	-74,902
--Average Weekly	152,174	169,376	176,114	-17,202	-23940
Insured					
Unemployed Rate	3.3%	3.7%	3.9%	-04	-0.6
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	31,220	49,496	32,005	-18,276	-785
Final Payments	6,960	6,647	10,130	313	-3,170
Weeks Paid	662,207	625,989	684,353	36,218	-22,146
Net Benefit Amt	$103,098,982	$95,012,446	$100,696,015	$8,086,536	$2,402,967
Avg Check Amt	$155.69	$151.78	$147.14	$3.91	$8.55

UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND HIGHEST SINCE MARCH 1975

Pennsylvania's unemployment compensation trust fund, which had a negative balance between October 1975 and August 1987, registered a March balance of $291 million. This is the highest balance since February 1975 when there was a balance of $379 million.

Claims activity in the Commonwealth has been declining. Both initial claims and total weeks claimed have declined over the month and year. Total weeks claimed dropped by 75,000 between March 1988 and March 1987.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND - MARCH 1988 Activity

Income - $12,144,882 Disbursements - $103,097,775

Cash Reserves $578,403,415
Federal Loans $287,328,036

Net Reserves $291,075,379

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Research and Statistics Division of the Pennsylvania Office of Employment Security, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1972, amended 1977) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by the latest 12 month average covered employment for which data is available.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.

Income - Amount of funds deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including employer and employe contributions, transfers from other sources such as the Special Administration Fund, redeposited unemployment compensation checks, federal benefit program reimbursements, loans, and interest earnings.

Disbursements - Amount of funds disbursed from the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including the payment of state unemployment compensation benefits, federal program benefits, refunds, and voluntary federal loan repayments.

Balance - Amount of funds available in the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund to pay unemployment compensation benefits.

Federal Loans - Balance of unemployment compensation loans owed by Pennsylvania to the federal government.

Net Reserves - Amount of funds available in the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund available to pay unemployment compensation benefits minus the balance of federal loans.